TWENTY-SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

FOR THE

Biennial Period Ending June 30
1926

Institution Located at

JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

Being Part of the Biennial Report of the State Board
of Control of Wisconsin

1796
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OF THE

WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN

FOR THE

BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1926

OFFICERS

JUNIUS T. HOOPER ..... *Superintendent and Steward*
KATHERINE ANDERSON (To 2/1/26) ..... *Assistant Steward*
FLORENCE MCKINNON ..... *Assistant Steward and Librarian*
LYDIA FEIND ..... *Stenographer*
MARJORIE SEATON ..... *Matron*
CORNELIA PEASLEE ..... *Boys' Supervisor*
HARRIET PARISH ..... *Girls' Supervisor*
MINTA A. JONES ..... *Kindergarten Supervisor*
M. A. MCGALLOWAY ..... *Field Worker*
MINNIE WAHLERS ..... *Usher*
MARY O'BRIEN ..... *Office Assistant*

INSTRUCTORS

U. G. BUSSAN, *Principal*

Literary Department

U. G. BUSSAN ..... *High School*
BERTHA BLEEDORN ..... *High School*
SUSAN MURPHY ..... *Grammar Grades*
KATHYRN BURRIS ..... *Intermediate Grades*
HELEN S. TUTTLE ..... *Primary Grades*
TOMSYNA CARLYLE ..... *Primary Grades*
ARTHUR PETERSON ..... *Typewriting*
AMY WOLD ..... *Kindergarten*
CLARA RAUSH ..... *Cadet*

Musical Department

ANNA K. MEANS ..... *Piano and Pipe Organ*
LAURA ENGLESON ..... *Piano*
ENID MORGAN HOYER ..... *Vocal*
HERBERT ADAMS ..... *Orchestra*

Industrial Department

BERT VELDHUIZEN ..... *Weaving*
FRED C. HOYER ..... *Tuning*
FRED M. BARNETT ..... *Caning, Basketry and Hammocks*
L. G. MCCULLOCH ..... *Boys' Supervisor and Brooms*

Home Economics Department

MARTHA WHITHAM ..... *Domestic Science*
GERTRUDE LINEHAN ..... *Assistant Domestic Science*

Physical Department

MARJORIE KRANHOLD ..... *Director*

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

TO THE HONORABLE STATE BOARD OF CONTROL OF WISCONSIN:

I herewith submit the Twenty-second Biennial Report of the Wisconsin School for the Blind for the two years ending June 30, 1926.

Again, as in previous reports, I must emphasize the fact that this is a school and, as a school, this institution in its aim, operation, and management is distinctly different from most of the institutions under the care of the State Board of Control.

We are an educational institution but on account of the nature of the handicap of our students, the work is highly specialized educational work. The classes are necessarily small and the number of teachers required to carry on the work is much larger than that required in the ordinary public school of the state. Blind children must be instructed in small groups or as individuals, which, of course, increases the cost of running this institution. Moreover, the cost of books and apparatus is considerably more than that required for seeing children. To give a concrete example, last year we had occasion to purchase twenty copies of Smith's Intermediate Grade Arithmetic, which would have cost 51 cents per copy or $10.20 in the ordinary seeing school. When these books were transcribed into Braille, they made three large volumes for each copy of the ink print edition, or sixty volumes for the twenty copies, and cost us $428.00. An ordinary map of Europe, which could be purchased from the Rand, McNally Company for $8.00 or $12.00, cost us $207.00 when purchased from the American Printing House for the Blind. These are examples of the increased cost of running a school for children who are handicapped as the blind are, as compared with that of the seeing school. However, large as is the cost, so much greater is the need for education for the children thus handicapped, and the results which we are obtaining at the Wisconsin School for the Blind in rehabilitating and educating our children more than justifies all the expense which is required.

Among other things which have been accomplished during the past biennial, we might mention the results which we have obtained in the state musical contests. In the preliminary contest at Whitewater in 1925, we had six entries and won four firsts, also winning four firsts in the final contest at Madison. On account of the size of our school, we were placed in Class B with the smaller high schools of the state, but after the results had been announced, the University authorities and those in charge of the contest placed us in Class A and, therefore, in 1926 our competition was with the largest high schools of the state rather than the small ones.

In the preliminary contest in 1926, we had eight entries and won seven firsts. However, in the final contest we had to compete with schools of 3500 enrollment, and as our junior and senior high schools together contain less than forty we were at a great disadvantage. However, with seven entries we won one first and five seconds and

ranked third in total number of points of all the high schools of the state. Had we remained in Class B we probably would have been first.

Our work along other lines, we feel, is equally as strong, and for the entire biennial we have made progress along more practical and better paying lines of instruction in the trades and home economics. Our aim is not only to give the literary and musical instruction, the best that can be given, but also to turn out our pupils trained in practical lines so that they can be independent, self-supporting, and self-respecting citizens.

But this is not only a school, it is also a home. We have our pupils not for the six or eight hours of the day customary in the ordinary school, but they are with us for the full twenty-four hours for more than nine months of the year. Consequently, much of the responsibility and all of the duties which ordinarily fall upon the parents are incumbent upon us. We must teach our children family responsibilities and duties and we must train them to live with others, develop in them social graces and ordinary social habits and customs, and give them right standards of life, both as far as the home, the town, and the state are concerned. In fact, we must do all the things which ordinarily are done both in school and the home, especially giving a strong training in morals and religion.

Moreover, much as is incumbent upon the ordinary school to preserve and develop health conditions, it is an absolute necessity with us. Blind children are naturally sedentary in habit. Accordingly, we must plan their physical training, exercise, and play, such as will overcome as far as possible these natural tendencies, without which health is impossible. As the children live with us and we plan their sleeping conditions, their daily program, and provide and cook the menu, there are many health problems which must be constantly attended to in order that the best results may be obtained. For years our physical training department has been doing splendid work in athletic instruction, play ground supervision, and physical education.

The employment of a clinic and trained nurse during the past biennial has added much in health development. All of the children are examined upon entering the school each fall, and the work of our physician is such as will not only take care of sickness or disease which arises, but we aim in every way to give such preventive measures as will insure us against any epidemics or outbreaks of disease as far as possible.

We have several pupils who are inherited syphilitics. These pupils are constantly treated throughout the year and, according to the report of our physician, we have accomplished much along these lines. In some cases, the disease seems to be very stubborn and the progress is slow, but in all cases some results have been shown and in many cases a complete cure has been brought about. Many cretans who entered the Kindergarten Department have been very much improved and benefited under thyroid medication. The children have shown increased health and strength, stronger mentality,

and much reduced obesity. Many other children have been improved by eye and ear treatment and also by general medication. We feel, except for the lack of a dentist, for which an appropriation should be made in the next legislature, that the health of our children is being splendidly provided for.

For the entire two years we can report much progress in all lines, but nowhere can we show more progress than in the work of our summer school for adult blind. During the past two summers we have had an enrollment of over eighty each year, and the interest shown and the results obtained are such as are unsurpassed in a school of this character anywhere else in the world for a like expenditure of money. During the nine years of its existence, we have given 450 men and women an eight weeks' course for a total expenditure of less than $25,000; or, in other words, at a per capita cost of less than $55 we have given training to over 450 people. To all we have given a better philosophy of life, increased power, more ambition, and made them better citizens and a great economic gain to the state. The work seems to improve each year and the interest shown and the number desiring the training increases with the improvement.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The physical plant is in very good condition, and the appropriation made for maintenance at the last session of the legislature is ample to keep the plant in the condition it should be kept. However, the plant is one of the oldest of the state institutions and it is necessary to continue the appropriation at about the same figure as it now stands in order to keep out deterioration. Moreover, there are several additions which should be attended to as soon as possible, and I recommend that requests for same be made of the incoming legislature.

As I have suggested in several previous reports, we need a sun porch on the front of the main building in order to provide a proper place for exercise and sunlight for our pupils. Moreover, we need a domestic science home or building and also a hospital. At present the work of the nurse is more than doubled because of the spread-out condition of caring for the sick, and when any contagion arises, it is almost impossible without much inconvenience and a cramping of all the work in the school to handle it properly. I believe the domestic science cottage and the hospital could be built as one building and at a much less expense than to build two separately. I recommend that about $50,000 be asked for such a building.

Conditions at institutions which are located on the outskirts of a city are fast changing. One of the changes that modern times have brought about is the advent of the automobile. Practically every employe has or desires a car. In order to hold our employees and give them the living conditions which they require, it will be necessary to have garages to house these cars. We attempted to provide

for part of the cars under the West Building, the building used for the maids and the Orchestra Department. However, a fire which occurred during the early part of June, 1926, makes us hesitate to continue the use of this building for this purpose, and we recommend that an appropriation of about $20,000 be asked in order to build a twenty-car garage.

GRADUATES DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS

1925

Emil Arndt ..... Marshfield
Herbert Dill ..... Manitowoc
Robert Haldiman ..... Sun Prairie
Louis Hendricks ..... De Pere
John Hercog ..... Milwaukee

1926

Marcella Calkins ..... Chetek
Lloyd Hasse ..... Monroe
Ruth Hoppe ..... Fond du Lac
Bernard Kemmeter ..... Jefferson
Osa Lancour ..... Cadott
Irving Maurer ..... Beloit
Saphronie Peterson ..... Colfax
Harvey Sorenson ..... De Pere
Earl Winter ..... Janesville

TABLE I—SHOWING MOVEMENT OF POPULATION AT THE WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1926

	Year ending June 30, 1925	Year ending June 30, 1926
Number present at the beginning of each fiscal year		
Returned from homes and leave of absence	106	115
Original admissions during the year	28	24
Totals	134	139
Graduated	5	9
Left school during year	8	8
Dropped for various reasons	1	2
Out on visit home	120	120
Totals	134	139
Average daily number of pupils	124	127

TABLE II—SHOWING ENROLLMENT OF PUPILS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS

For the school years	Males	Females	Total
1916–1917	86	64	150
1917–1918	74	63	137
1918–1919	70	46	116
1919–1920	64	49	113
1920–1921	67	44	111
1921–1922	70	52	122
1922–1923	73	57	130
1923–1924	65	51	116
1924–1925	75	59	134
1925–1926	77	62	139
Summer School:			
1917–1918	14		14
1918–1919	16		16
1919–1920	31		31
1920–1921	50		50
1921–1922	42	19	61
1922–1923	31	18	49
1923–1924	43	28	71
1924–1925	53	28	81
1925–1926	42	38	80

TABLE III—SHOWING DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTIES OF RESIDENCE OF ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AT ANY TIME DURING THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1926

Barron	2	Manitowoc	3
Bayfield	1	Marathon	5
Brown	8	Marinette	9
Burnett	1	Milwaukee	11
Chippewa	3	Monroe	9
Clark	2	Oconto	3
Columbia	2	Oneida	3
Crawford	1	Outagamie	1
Dane	5	Polk	4
Dodge	2	Portage	3
Douglas	1	Price	2
Dunn	2	Racine	6
Eau Claire	5	Rock	10
Florence	1	Sauk	2
Fond du Lac	2	Sawyer	1
Forest	1	Shawano	2
Grant	1	Sheboygan	1
Green	1	Trempealeau	1
Jackson	4	Vernon	1
Jefferson	1	Vilas	1
Juneau	1	Walworth	5
Kenosha	5	Washburn	1
La Crosse	3	Waukesha	5
Lafayette	1	Winnebago	5
Langlade	3	Wood	2
Lincoln	3	Rockford, Illinois	1

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

		1924-25		1925-26	
	Operation:				
July 1	Bal. in hands of steward	$ 392 35		$ 392.35	
	Bal. 1922-23 only	2 50			
	Bal. 1923-24 appr.	11,037 59			
	Bal. 1924-25 appr.			839 05	
	Appr. 20.17 (6)(a)	94,074 74		103,102 66	
June 30	Refunds	65 01		130 76	
	Disbursements		$104,340.79		$103,698.12
	Bal. in hands of steward		392 35		392 35
	Bal. of 1924-25 appr.		839 05		
	Bal. of 1925-26 appr.				374.35
		$105,572 19	$105,572.19	$104,464.82	$104,464.82
	Repair and Maintenance:				
July 1	Balance	$ 2,878.17		$ 841 84	
	Appropriations	6,850.00		17,650 00	
June 30	Refunds	1.52		24 85	
	Disbursements		$ 8,887.85		$ 11,245.91
	Balance		841 84		7,270 78
		$ 9,729 69	$ 9,729 69	$ 18,516 69	$ 18,516.69
	Permanent Property and Improvements:				
July 1	Balance	$ 2,996 88		$ 120 44	
	Appropriations	3,550 00		8,700 00	
June 30	Disbursements		$ 6,426.44		$ 3,437.86
	Balance		120 44		5,382 58
		$ 6,546 88	$ 6,546.88	$ 8,820 44	$ 8,820.44
	Summer School:				
July 1	Balance	$ 2,366 03		$ 911 20	
	Appropriations	3,500 00		3,500 00	
June 30	Disbursements		$ 4,954 83		$ 3,582.15
	Balance		911 20		829.05
		$ 5,866 03	$ 5,866 03	$ 4,411 20	$ 4,411.20
	Aid to Blind Students:				
July 1	Balance 1923-24	$ 1,015 40			
	Balance 1924-25			$ 752 00	
	Appropriations	3,000 00		3,000 00	
Jue 30	Disbursements:		$ 2,450 00		$ 1,871 00
	Balance		1,565 40		1,881 00
		$ 4,015 40	$ 4,015 40	$ 3,752 00	$ 3,752 00
	Field Agency for Care of Adult Blind:				
July 1	Balance	$ 11,976 77		$ 13,492 36	
	Appropriations	15,000 00		15,000 00	
	Refund	9 26			
June 30	Disbursements		$ 13,493 67		$ 17,145 09
	Balance		13,492.36		11,047 27
		$ 26,986 03	$ 26,986 03	$ 28,492 36	$ 28,492 36
	Live Stock Revolving:				
July 1	Balance	$ 2,271 19		$ 28,87	
June 30	Receipts	1,690 79		3,863 91	
	Disbursements		3,933 11		3,433.59
	Balance		28 87		459.19
		$ 3,961 98	$ 3,961 98	$ 3,892 78	$ 3,892.78

Special Capital:	Balances	Appropriation and Refunds	Disbursements	Balances
Root Cellar	$ 2,000.00	a$ 2,500 00	$ 684.87	$ 3,815.13
Remodeling greenhouse	2,500 00	----------	a 2,500 00	----------
Engine room floor	500.00	----------	----------	500.00
Automobile	105.50	----------	105.50*	----------
Remodeling farm buildings	----------	2,500.00	2,500.00	----------
	$ 5,105 50	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,790.37	$ 4,315.13

(a) Combination of funds.
*Reverted to General Fund.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FIELD AGENCY FOR ADULT BLIND

To J. T. HOOPER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND:

I herewith submit the first biennial report of the Wisconsin State Agency for the Adult Blind for the two years ending June 30, 1926.

The State Agency for the Adult Blind came into existence with the appointment of a Director early in March 1924. A survey of the blind people of the state was the first work undertaken. Three sources were drawn upon in making this survey; first, the files of the Bureau for the Care of the Blind; second, the files of the Wisconsin School for the Blind, and third, the well nigh inexhaustible knowledge of the blind possessed by Mr. M. A. McGalloway, who has been Field Worker for the Wisconsin School for the Blind for a number of years.

Early in July 1924 the survey had been sufficiently advanced to warrant the expansion of the Agency's work. The staff of the Agency as it has been developed is as follows: Superintendent, J. T. Hooper; Director, W. U. Parks (blind); Field Worker, M. A. McGalloway (blind); Employment Secretary, Mary E. Hulburt; Salesman, E. F. Costigan; Home Teachers, Stella K. Hamilton (blind), Cassandria Carr (blind), Caroline Palmer (blind) and Alice Otto (blind); Stenographer and Bookkeeper, Ella Watson.

These words of introduction put us in position to take up a description of the various departments of the Agency's work.

POLICY OF THE AGENCY TOWARD BLIND WORKERS

The working blind were, of course, particularly interested in the assistance that the Agency might be able to furnish in the way of employment and in the selling of their products. We have endeavored to follow a definite policy through our employment secretary and our salesman. Our policy is largely governed by the slogan "A NORMAL LIFE FOR THE BLIND". This means that the blind worker is disturbed as little as possible relative to his home and community relationships. Our effort is simply to assist him

in his work and not in any way to control his manner of life. We do not wish, for instance, to have the blind rug weaver feel that we will take care of the whole of his production. We encourage him to develop his home market, while we will do what we can to take care of his surplus products.

So far, we have not been interested in establishing shops where considerable numbers of blind workers are employed. We realize, of course, that there is a class of workers who can be helped to best advantage by means of just such shops, but we feel that it is often too easy for the superior workman to slip into the line of least resistance and become utterly dependent upon the help that the Agency can render. In finding jobs for the blind, the Employment Secretary encourages the worker to make a personal application, unaccompanied by any representative of the Agency. This tends to develop independence on the part of the worker and confidence in him on the part of the employer. Individual initiative must be developed.

EMPLOYMENT OF THE BLIND

The work of the Employment Secretary, Mary E. Hulburt, covers various activities, for we have interpreted her field broadly, regarding it as effecting all blind workers. A few years ago the work of an Employment Secretary was confined almost wholly to securing jobs for the blind in factories. Since the business depression of 1921, it has been found extremely difficult to interest factory superintendents in handicapped workers, and especially is this true of the blind.

Since August 1, 1924, seventeen definite placements have been made, while a number of other blind people have secured jobs because the way has been prepared for them by Miss Hulburt, through interviews with factory superintendents. Seventeen placements may seem like a small number, but when it is known that in Cleveland, Detroit, New York and other cities a still smaller number of placements have been made during the same period, we certainly cannot look upon the work of factory employment as unsuccessful, but it does plainly point to the fact that the mill or factory presents a very restricted field for blind workers.

Fifty blind people have been assisted in their work; some of these were piano tuners, others salesmen and still others were women who were encouraged to use the needle or sewing machine, by the furnishing of linens and other materials for them to work upon. This extension of credit to the women amounted to approximately $170, the money being advanced by the Agency out of its funds and returned again to its treasury after the finished articles were sold.

Pursuant of her work, Miss Hulburt has made 1050 calls, 426 of these being conferences with factory owners or superintendents and 118 were conferences with blind workers at her office in Milwaukee. Forty-seven cities throughout the State were visited by her and some 275 blind people were interviewed.

The effort which was put forth for the women workers has been especially encouraging for it was found that their finished articles commanded a very ready sale. In fact, at the special sales in Milwaukee in December 1925 and May 1926 these same articles, together with the basketry, proved to be leaders that served to attract customers to our store, and a considerable portion of the baskets were made by women. We are particularly gratified with this result as the problem of the blind woman worker is one that has baffled workers for the blind for many years. We have not solved the problem, but we are certainly making progress.

Attention is called to a survey of the employed blind in the State as made by the Employment Secretary Jan. 1, 1926. The reader is cautioned to keep in mind that the survey by no means includes all of the employed and self-supporting blind people of Wisconsin. An exact report in regard to such matters is impossible in the nature of the case.

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYED BLIND IN MILWAUKEE COUNTY

	Total	Male	Female
Factory	33	25	8
Badger	14	12	2
Workshop	34	34	----------
Outside Factory	13	6	7
Self employed	11	8	3
Tuners	5	5	----------
Brooms and Weaving	3	3	----------
Needlework and Basketry	5	----------	5
Selling, Canvassing, Papers, etc.	13	12	1
Total	131	105	26

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYED BLIND IN WISCONSIN OUTSIDE MILWAUKEE COUNTY

	Total	Male	Female
Factory	13	9	1
State Employes	16	7	9
Self-Employed	131	113	18
	160	129	31
Masseurs	8	1	1
Chiropractors	2	2	
Osteopaths	1	1	
Banker	1	1	
Teachers	3	2	1
Entertainer	1	1	
Minister	1	1	
Business Men	1	3	1
Storekeepers	15	15	
Insurance	2	2	
Tuners	21	21	
Farmers (bona fide)	19	19	
Cabinet maker	1	1	
Magazine Agents	2	2	
Stand (cigars and candy)	1	1	
Auto mechanics	2	2	
Salesmen	6	6	
Weavers	15	15	
Broom Makers	1	1	
Caners	1	1	
Basket Makers			
Willow	1	1	
Reed (not classified otherwise)	6	2	1
Needleworkers	8		8

SUMMARY OF EMPLOYED BLIND IN WISCONSIN

	Total	Male	Female
Factory	46	35	11
State Employees	16	7	9
Badger	14	12	2
Workshop	34	34	
Outside Factory	13	6	7
Self Employed	168	141	27
	291	235	56

SALES DEPARTMENT

Our Salesman, Mr. E. F. Costigan, made careful preparation for his work by a study of the work that the blind can do. The finest kind of opportunity was given him in the work department of the Wisconsin School for the Blind. It may be said that the teachers and the work departments have always exhibited and exercised the finest spirit of co-operation in connection with our work. They are furthering the work for the blind by carrying out various experiments suggested by our Salesman and other members of the Agency's staff.

The Salesman began his work by calling on the State and County institutions throughout the State. Fortunately, there is no law in

this State bringing pressure upon its institutions to purchase our products. That means that we must win and hold their patronage by furnishing a serviceable article. Our state institutions have manifested the finest spirit of co-operation imaginable in purchasing our goods. For the most part they have bought brooms. Our rugs have been sold to a few institutions, also to hospitals and to stores in the larger towns.

Broom making and weaving have for a great many years been the chief standby of the blind. Although many criticize these trades as unprofitable for the blind, our experience on the whole is favorable to their continuance. We cannot compete with the large broom factory in selling to the merchant, but we can compete with the merchant in selling direct to the consumer. The same situation is true of the rugs that our weavers produce. Our salesman, Mr. Costigan, has met with encouraging results in two special sales conducted in Milwaukee. He was assisted in these sales by Miss Hulburt and volunteer workers.

$14,786.38 worth of goods were sold through the Sales Department from January 1925, to June 30, 1926. Of this amount, a little over $9000 covered broom sales and a little over $3300 comprised the rug sales. Most of the remaining sales were made at the State Fair in September 1925, and at the two special Milwaukee sales. Eighty-five workers were served by Mr. Costigan through his department.

Very fortunately there are many blind workers in the State, broom makers, weavers and basket makers especially, who have developed their own markets and are sufficiently forehanded to pay cash for the supplies which they use in their work. During the last few months Mr. Costigan has been encouraging certain blind men to take up house to house canvassing. The idea is that the blind should sell the products of the blind so that both the profit of the worker and that of the salesman would come to the blind. This policy has met with some success and we think it has real promise for the future.

For the same period the Agency has purchased material for the workers amounting to $8,732.69. These supplies consisted of broom corn, other broom supplies, rug materials, reed, sea-grass, etc., for basketry as well as linens, cotton and yarns for the women workers. Money used for such purposes is borrowed by the Agency as we have no State Revolving Fund for such purchases. A small Revolving Fund would be of inestimable value for the Sales Department.

The Sales Department is capable of very large expansion. Many a blind worker is hampered by the lack of capital and credit. When the Agency is in a position to put more money in the Department, the number served will reach something like its rightful proportions. Mr. Costigan has shown a devotion to his work and a very fine apprehension of the needs and point of view of the blind workers.

HOME TEACHING

The work of the home teachers is assuming an increasingly large place in the interests of the Agency. One cannot possibly give anything like an adequate idea of the work that these devoted women are doing. Two of the teachers have served one year and ten months, one of them a little over a year and a half and the fourth, eight months. This is a short period in which to show results, but very definite results have made themselves apparent in the lives of numerous blind people trained by these teachers. Many of the blind who were entirely innocent of handicrafts two years ago, yes, even a year ago, are now contributing finished articles of good quality to our sales. More than one hundred are reading raised type and many are putting bottoms into chairs for their neighbors, having been trained for that work by the home teachers.

The amount of good cheer and renewed courage which these teachers have brought into the lives of aged blind people can never be measured.

The daily reports that come into the office from the home teachers are an inspiration to those who read them. The teachers have made more than 4000 calls upon blind people. They are in continuous contact with over 700 different individuals. They have given nearly 1800 instructions to 136 pupils. Three hundred seventy-five investigations of the conditions and abilities of blind people have been made by them. Most of these were unknown to us until discovered by the home teachers.

Among the subjects they teach are finger reading, Braille writing, typing, hand and machine sewing, fancy work, basketry, caning and household tasks as well as the common primary branches such as arithmetic, geography, spelling, grammar, etc. In a word, each home teacher holds herself in readiness to meet the needs that arise in the lives of the blind people they serve.

Each teacher covers a definite section of the State. The several districts are gradually enlarged as the teachers find themselves able to take on the extra work. It is the policy of the Agency ultimately to cover the whole State in this manner. One or two more home teachers will be required before this is made possible.

STATISTICAL RECORD OF HOME TEACHERS

Total number of calls	4,193
Total number of instructions	1,792
Total number of pupils	136
Total number of investigations	375
Total number of people with whom home teachers are in contact	704

THE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR THE ADULT BLIND

The Summer School for the Adult Blind had been in full operation six years previous to the beginning of the Agency's work. Although it is not officially a department of the Agency, it is definitely

a part of its activities. By means of it hundreds of blind people have received training. Most of them are people who have lost their sight in adulthood. A detailed description of the work of the Summer School is not necessary here, for, of course, a full report of it will be given by Supt. J. T. Hooper.

Its courses are of a very practical nature, including finger reading, Braille writing, typing and dictaphone operating; major trades such as broom making, weaving and piano tuning; domestic economy, including cooking, sewing and fancy work; handicrafts such as chair caning and basketry.

The Summer School has created a vast deal of interest among the blind throughout the State. Those attending the school work with enthusiasm and courage, for it gives many of them a new grip on life. Besides the taught branches, many blind have absorbed a right attitude toward blindness by mingling in the school with people handicapped like themselves.

It is well-nigh unbelievable that there can be States with schools well-equipped for the education of the blind, who are not using the same equipment in the summer for the training of the adult blind.

The Summer School had its inception in Minnesota, but it was left for the Wisconsin School for the Blind, under Mr. Hooper's leadership, to make it an outstanding success and a powerful influence amongst the blind.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE BLIND

There were 2026 histories of blind people received by the State Agency for the Adult Blind from the State Bureau for the Care of the Blind in March 1924. Since then there have been added to the history files 553 new cases, and during the same period there have been removed 63 on account of sufficient vision, 90 through death and 7 because of removals from the State, leaving a total on June 30, 1926, of 2419.

We estimate that there are in the neighborhood of 200 blind people in the State whom we have not discovered. No doubt most of them are old people. Of the more than 2400, nearly 1000, or approximately 40%, are incapacitated because of old age, disease or pronounced subnormal condition. One must always keep in mind that the disease or accident which causes blindness often brings in its train other handicaps more serious than blindness.

We may look at the blind population of the State from another angle. Nearly one-half of the blind, or 48.5%, are sixty years of age or older, while 38.2% or over one-third, are 21 years of age or more. Blindness is peculiarly a handicap of adulthood, for only 13.3% are under twenty-one years of age.

Most of the work of investigation is carried on by Mr. M. A. McGalloway, field worker. His ability in such work is phenomenal. The home teachers must be credited with a large share in the work

of investigation also. In fact, all of the members of the staff at various times have occasion to make investigations in connection with their work.

Figures are appended to this report, which exhibit interesting facts concerning the blind of the State.

PERCENTAGE AS TO AGES OF BLIND

	Per cent
Less than six years old	.8
6 to 20 years	12.4
21 to 49 years	27.1
50 to 59 years	11.1
60 years and older	48.5

DISTRIBUTION OF BLIND BY COUNTIES

Adams	15	Marathon	44
Ashland	14	Marinette	33
Barron	35	Marquette	3
Bayfield	12	Milwaukee	152
Brown	43	Monroe	31
Buffalo	3	Oconto	34
Burnett	9	Oneida	20
Calumet	12	Outagamie	60
Chippewa	46	Ozaukee	13
Clark	30	Pepin	6
Columbia	38	Pierce	22
Crawford	25	Polk	17
Dane	61	Portage	31
Dodge	30	Price	8
Door	20	Racine	70
Douglas	56	Richland	21
Dunn	30	Rock	92
Eau Claire	50	Rusk	13
Florence	1	St. Croix	28
Fond du Lac	24	Sauk	35
Forest	6	Sawyer	9
Grant	53	Shawano	50
Green	23	Sheboygan	36
Green Lake	3	Taylor	15
Iowa	9	Trempealeau	23
Iron	9	Vernon	24
Jackson	27	Vilas	16
Jefferson	59	Walworth	49
Juneau	31	Washburn	11
Kenosha	30	Washington	14
Kewaunee	7	Waukesha	34
La Crosse	46	Waupaca	36
Lafayette	8	Waushara	29
Langlade	14	Winnebago	76
Lincoln	15	Wood	40
Manitowoc	30		
			2,419

THE PENSION SITUATION

The law establishing pensions for the blind, in its present form, dates from July 1923. The pension granted to an applicant cannot exceed $360 a year. It may be less than this figure, depending upon the income of the applicant. It becomes the duty of the agency to review all of the pensions paid to the blind by the counties of the state, for we alone have the data in our files that would make such a review possible. Even though we have nothing to do with the administration of the pension law, we are in a position to observe its actual workings and we therefore cannot regard this report as complete without certain observations relative to the

carrying out of the law, and relative also to the effect of pensions upon the blind themselves.

In the first place, as regards the amount of pension granted. The law requires that each applicant shall state his income for the twelve months preceding the date of his application. We find that the income of many blind people varies from year to year, but in many such cases the same amount of pension is continued from year to year. The law gives the county boards wide latitude in the investigation of the financial resources of blind applicants for aid, so it would be entirely possible for the committees having such matters in charge to require the pensioner to make a statement each year as to the amount of his income. A few counties do this and it works no hardship. Other counties grant the full amount of $360 without any reference whatever to incomes. We do not begrudge the blind the aid that they get, but we are painfully aware of the deteriorating effect that such a policy has on the character of many of the younger blind people. Fortunately, there are only six counties that belong to this latter class.

Second, there are many pensioners who are still drawing money from their original home counties who have for years resided in other parts of the State. Some of these pensioners may keep up a semblance of residence in their home counties merely for the sake of obtaining the pension. If the case is worthy, no such procedure is necessary for a regular method of transferring pensions from one county to another is provided for in the law. It would seem, both for the sake of the pensioner and for the interests of the county that this situation should be carefully looked into by the county boards.

Third, occasionally there is a young man of promising ability who is given every opportunity for a training that will put him on his feet, but because hard work does not appeal to him, he applies for a pension. Usually he gets it. We are acquainted however with two cases of this character where the committees turned down their application on the ground that they should take the training offered them. We commended the action of these two committees.

Fourth, there is a somewhat larger class of young men who have received a good education, together with a thorough training in one of the major trades. When they get out into the world the Agency does all in its power to get them in line with patrons. They find it up-hill work, as do all people, whether sighted or blind. They feel that the pension can be obtained for the asking, so they ask and receive and lose ambition. One would think when a pension is so small as $360 maximum that such an affect would hardly be possible. It is undoubtedly true that ambitious young people could be definitely encouraged to push forward in their chosen life work by the granting of a temporary pension, but in such cases, the temporary character of the pension should be definitely emphasized and rigorously adhered to.

Finally, we bespeak the co-operation of the county boards in helping the blind by a careful administration of the pension law rather than by hindering them by a thoughtless but well meant generosity. There is no pension system but what holds certain inherent drawbacks. We think that the pension law of Wisconsin is so drawn up that it can be made highly beneficial to the needy as well as to the ambitious blind. However, great care must be exercised, or our pension system will become a curse rather than a blessing.

In order that the importance of pension matters among the blind may be seen, the following brief summary is given:

The reports of the county treasurers show that a total of $235,627.41 was paid to 973 pensioners—an average pension to the individual of $242.16. This covers the year 1925. In 1924 the total amount paid to blind pensioners was $198,856.80. The number of pensioners was 885, making the average pension $224.70.

If the present pension law remains unchanged, the high-water mark will probably not exceed $250,000.00, for although many new pensions are being granted, the death rate of the pensioners is inevitably very high.

A Forward Look

Like all well-regulated and ambitious Americans, we of the Agency are looking forward to larger accomplishments. Our Employment and Sales Departments must be expanded most decidedly in order to meet the growing requirements of the blind workers of the State. With these requirements in view, there must be established in the first place permanent headquarters in the city of Milwaukee.

There should be a fully equipped office, and in this office an assistant (preferably blind), trained as a typist and dictaphone operator. She should also be skilled in the ordinary handicrafts with which the blind are acquainted so that she could act as demonstrator at sales and exhibits and would also be able to help blind people who desire advice concerning their work.

There should be in connection with the headquarters a room suitable for the storing of articles made by the blind. Milwaukee being the largest city of the State and its industrial center, furnishes the best of markets for our products. The employment secretary and salesman should be in charge of these headquarters. In a comparatively short time the number of our workers will be greatly augmented. It will then be necessary for the Board of Control to take under serious consideration the establishment of a permanent store in Milwaukee for the sale of their products.

Attention is called to the need of at least one more home teacher, and to the further fact that the salaries which we are paying to our present home teachers are very small. Of course it can be urged that $75 a month is more than any of these women were earning before their appointment as teachers, but it must be admitted that

sighted persons with equal equipment could not be secured for anything like that amount. These salaries should be increased from time to time until a reasonable wage for teachers is reached.

The special sales that have been referred to so many times, should not be confined to Milwaukee. There are many cities in the State where a three or four days sale, well advertised, would receive splendid patronage, and would be of the highest value in the way of publicity, and publicity relative to what the blind can actually do, is greatly needed if we are to succeed in our work. There may come a time when special sales will finance themselves, but for some time to come the overhead expense must be met by the State.

As stated above, we are all greatly encouraged because the articles made by the women have met with such ready sale. The whole amount of such sales, however, is pitifully small when the real need of the blind women of the State is considered. It is truly hard enough for a blind man to make good in the world's work, but a blind woman has an infinitely more difficult personal problem to meet. Her chief hope is home work in the shape of sewing, fancy work, basketry, etc. Most of these women have not only blindness, but poverty with which to contend. We need a revolving fund to furnish these unfortunate workers with materials. It means only a few thousand dollars, but it will be money well spent or rather set aside.

The attention of the Superintendent of the Wisconsin School for the Blind and the Board of Control is respectfully called to the above needs, and I trust that the work already put in motion will meet with your approval.

Respectfully submitted,

W. U. PARKS,
Director.